Editorial

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Welcome to the second issue of the ninth volume of *British Politics*. The first contribution for this issue comes from Stuart McAnulla and examines the political dynamics of ‘new atheism’. The article considers the extent to which new atheism can be said to mirror forms of religious fundamentalism, but maintains that, while the uncompromising nature of new atheist advocates could perhaps be described as ‘evangelical’, fundamentalist assertions are wide of the mark. Our second original article, from Valentina Cardo, examines the issue of celebrity politics and political representation. Using the case of the 2006 Celebrity Big Brother series, featuring George Galloway, Cardo evaluates the use of a rhetoric based on notions of ‘trust’ and ‘authenticity’ and considers the way in which popular television programmes are able to articulate political ideas and values.

The third contribution to this issue is from Alec Charles, and examines themes of political symbolism by exploring the case of alleged ‘crocodile’ sightings in the river Lea ahead of the 2012 London Olympics. The paper explores the way in which the story developed in the media, and examines its function as a proxy for broader concerns around political themes including the organisation and security of the games themselves. The final original article for this issue comes from Rob Gandy, and analyses the subject of politician mobility. Using data from the most recent parliamentary and European elections, the paper finds that although there is considerable mobility for both MPs and MEPs, the vast majority represent constituencies within their region of birth, or an adjacent region. The final paper in this issue is for our Forward Thinking section, and comes from Phillip Gannon. The paper examines the foreign policy of David Cameron, with particular reference to the ‘transatlantic bridge’ approach that was adopted by New Labour.

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